

MINUTES of the
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)
of

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
MEETING OF August 6, 2010

Peaks Ranger District Office, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff, AZ

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Rebecca Antle called the meeting to order at 1:03pm. Members introduced themselves by way of roll call and Mr. Baldwin announced a quorum.

Committee Members Present: Hank Rogers
 Drew John
 Rebecca Antle
 Robert Biegel
 David Moore
 John Savino

Committee Members Absent: Pete Pfeifer

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Robert Baldwin, Grants Coordinator
 Dan Shein, Chief of Resources & Public
 Programs Section

Other Individuals Present: Chris Gammage, Statewide OHV Ambassador
 Program Coordinator
 Chip Norton – Community Forest Trust
 Nina Hubbard – Coconino NF Red Rock RD
 Jerry Gonzalez – Coconino NF Mogollon Rim RD
 Amy Racki – Tonto NF Mesa RD
 Susan Johnson – Prescott NF
 Pat McGervey – Coconino NF Peaks RD
 Don French – OHVAG new member applicant
 Iris Estes – Apache-Sitgreaves NF SO
 John Brown – Kaibab NF Williams RD
 Kevin Bergersen – AGFD, Wildlife Law
 Enforcement Program Coordinator
 Gary Garner – Coconino NF Mogollon Rim RD

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Chair Antle - Asked for roll call. Members and staff introduced themselves. Bob Baldwin announced that a quorum is present.

Antle Read OHVAG mission statement and Ambassador mission statement.

Welcome by Justin Loxley, Peaks Ranger District.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2010 Meeting.

Biegel Motion to approve minutes. John Second.

Antle I have a question about the list of names who purchased the sticker. I understood that Jeff Gursh already did that.

Baldwin Joe Sacco reported at that meeting that AGFD is in the process of purchasing that list at the cost of \$7k.

Sandee McCullum Reported that Jeff Gursh has followed up with AGFD since Joe left and was told by Kevin Bergersen that it is being done.

Antle On page 14 there is an issue of purchasing a logo. I thought we already had a State Parks logo.

Rogers We were talking about an OHVAG logo that we can put on shirts, hats, etc. to identify OHVAG.

Antle On page 20 I have a question about money held back for park operations. Why is that money held back?

Baldwin Pointed out that the money is a reserve to cover cash obligations and must be replaced in the account if it is not spent for OHV purposes.

Antle Call for vote – unanimous.

2. Discuss Goals and Plans for the Statewide OHV Program.

Baldwin Explained current Sticker Fund Project Selection Program, i.e. sources of fund, difference in requirements for use, and the advantages of the new selection process (See Action Item: C2).

Savino You are only advancing 80% of the funds, correct?

Baldwin Correct, only the State OHV funds. And the uses of State funds can include law enforcement.

Justin Loxley So, can these funds be used to pay federal staff?

Baldwin Yes, if the federal employee is performing a function to complete and approved scope item. For instance, if federal staff is doing the

surveys necessary for NEPA compliance and that cost is included in the approved scope of the project, then that employee's time would be reimbursable.

Baldwin The OHV Recreation Fund has two components: gas tax revenue and sticker revenue. There is only one fund. When the Legislature takes money from the fund, they are taking it out of everyone's pocket. We like to give the impression that they are only taking the gas tax portion and the sticker portion is left for projects.

John Some of the reports I've seen reference the sticker money and the non-sticker money. If we want to emphasize that any money they take affect projects, we shouldn't refer to the pots separately.

Baldwin When we get the monthly deposits, they are identified as revenue from MVD and transfers from the HURF (Highway User Revenue Fund).

John I like the idea of keeping it in one fund. We shouldn't be confusing the users with having to identify if it is the sticker portion or gas tax portion that is being taken. We should just refer to it as the OHV fund.

Baldwin Sticker purchasers want to know how much revenue has been generated by the sticker sales, then we can show them that that amount has been spent on projects.

Biegel I was under the impression that the Legislature passed a law that the sticker fund could not be swept for the next year.

Baldwin I think what happened is that Representative Weiers identified an amount that had been contributed to the fund from sticker sales and got the Legislature to take that amount out of the sweep considerations. It was over a million dollars and that is what we have to use for projects now. No Legislation specifically identified an action to protect sticker money.

 The RTP fund is part of the federal transportation bill that is typically passed for six-year period by Congress. The current bill expired in 2009 and we have received our 2010 appropriation under a continuing resolution. Congress has not moved to develop a new bill at this time. Talk is that if the RTP is included in a new bill, the amount may be increased. Nothing has been proposed at this time. (Reviewed ACTION ITEM: C2)

Biegel The match for the RTP money can be in labor from the volunteer groups?

Baldwin Volunteers are a non-federal source: time and materials purchased.

Bruce Mauer – Can non-profits be reimbursed with grant funds?

Baldwin Yes, if the non-profit is partnering with the federal project sponsor and performing work on approved scope items, the project sponsor can pay for those services and get reimbursed through the grant.

Sandee McCullum I represent the OHV Coalition, a 501C3 non-profit. I think we have the type of agreements you are talking about with State Parks, the BLM, and Forest Service. So, wouldn't we be able to apply for these grants?

Baldwin I am not familiar with any agreement that State Parks has with the Coalition. I know that the Coalition works with the BLM under an assistance agreement, but that arrangement does not exist with the Forest Service. Again, since the property being developed is generally under federal control, they must be the project sponsor and can work with the non-profit under whatever arrangement they have. State Parks cannot hire a contractor without going through a competitive bid process. Our competitive grant programs meet that requirement. This selection process does not. We will be offering grants to non-profits to expand the Ambassador Program. That will be a competitive process.

Jerry Gonzalez Has Jeff Spellman from the City of Phoenix contact you about doing a project on the Coconino NF?

Baldwin I have traded emails with him concerning a project they want to do on the forest. We would be able to enter into an agreement with the city and conduct projects. However, if the project is going to happen on federal property, the federal entity should always be the project sponsor and would need their own agreement with the city to perform whatever tasks are required.

Baldwin We have come to the point in this discussion where we want to hear from the land managers about any projects that may be on the horizon within their jurisdiction. How can we help you get through this project selection process? We would also like any information you can provide on the Travel Management Rule process in your area.

Sandee McCullum We have worked hard over the years to get projects to this group and you have done a good job of getting them approved. I would hate to see us lose this opportunity now because the project sponsors are not receiving their reimbursement. What is happening that these monies are not going out?

Baldwin Are you talking about the funds for the projects that were approved last time we met?

Sandee McCullum I'm talking about a \$59k reimbursement that was submitted back in January for the Coalition.

Baldwin We don't have an agreement with the Coalition that they would be submitting a bill for. I know you are partnering with the BLM on several of the projects applied for recently. If you are referring to the projects that were approved by OHVAG at their May meeting, we are getting the work orders signed, waiting for SHPO clearance on some of them and will be issuing the advance checks when the work orders are finalized. I'm not aware of an amount of \$59k that is due to the Coalition in any of these projects.

Rogers Asked the government employees to introduce themselves and the agencies they represent and what their responsibilities are.

Chip Norton – Community Forest Trust working with the Prescott NF
Nina Hubbard – Coconino NF Red Rock RD, just commissioned this week into a recreation staff position

Jerry Gonzalez – Coconino NF Mogollon Rim RD, recreation staff, currently administering RTP grant to sign key features on the Coconino NF

Amy Racki – Tonto NF Mesa RD, dispersed recreation and wilderness, that covers all OHV activities, now responsible for RTP grant to install heavy duty access gates

Chris Gammage, BLM Phoenix Division Office, OHV Ambassador Coordinator

Susan Johnson – Prescott NF, west side recreation manager, new to AZ from New Mexico

Pat McGervey- Coconino NF Peaks RD, recreation staff, new to Peaks RD

Iris Estes – Apache-Sitgreaves NF SO, conservation education coordinator in charge of Kids in the Woods program

John Brown – Kaibab NF Williams RD, administering RTP grant for sign installation on Tucsayon & Williams districts and getting the TMR map printed

Kevin Bergersen – AGFD, Wildlife Law Enforcement Program Coordinator, administering RTP education fund for brochures and online program

Gary Garner – Coconino NF Mogollon Rim RD, management analyst

Rogers Thanks for your participation today. We hope this will help you find ways to use this money to enhance OHV recreation opportunities in your districts.

Baldwin Under the new OHV legislation State Parks is required to report to the Legislature in September 2011 on how the OHV funds have been used. We are trying to get projects moving and completed so we will have something to report. If you have funds to complete a project, I'm going to be on you like a new suit to get the project completed.

Savino Who is going to be on State Parks to get the money out for the projects that have been awarded? The projects that were approved by the Parks Board on June 16th still haven't received their money. In areas like Navajo county where the construction season is short, we are running out of time to get

our project done by next summer. I understand you are only one person, but we need to restructure what we are doing.

Baldwin I am the person responsible for getting these projects moving and I am working with 14 agreements that need to be signed and SHPO clearances that need to be reviewed. I anticipate having these projects up and running by the end of September. At this time no one has approval to start work.

Rogers I would like to give Bob credit here for what he has done to streamline this process. Applying for a grant a couple of years ago was like pulling teeth. I hope he can get this money process straightened out.

Savino My concern is that there is a timeline on the project sponsors and they are losing time in the fall they need to complete their projects by summer.

Rogers I'm sure time extensions will be available.

Baldwin The work orders indicate that the projects need to be done by June 30th. That was the condition for approving the project. If we don't hold them to some timeframe, the projects don't get the attention they need to get done. The OHV money is in the bank ready to send out once the SHPO clearance is approved and the work order signed.

Amy Racki Mesa RD has the most OHV use of any RD in the country. We have a grant to install access gates that I am coordinating. We applied for a Sticker Fund grant this year and I have been informed that we need to do cultural surveys on most of the project area. ADOT is doing roadwork on Hwy 87. We will be using their ground up asphalt to build two staging areas at the Sugarloaf OHV Area which is just north of the Sycamore OHV Area. The TRALS volunteer group will be installing signs on existing proposed travel routes only since we have not completed TMR. Our goal is to get the motor vehicle use map (MVUM) completed by December.

I would like to suggest to the other FS representatives in this room that we make an effort to get together and discuss strategies to implement the TMR and OHV area developments. In the valley we have a long range plan and we are getting the facilities established, getting the volunteer on the ground being productive, and getting OHV funds on the grounds. So maybe we can share that model and help the other Arizona forests.

Antle I know it has been an issue in the past for forests to get together and I think that is a good suggestion.

Biegel Bob Baldwin, can you explain what the cultural review is?

Baldwin Before a project funded with State funds can begin, the project area has to be surveyed for cultural artifacts. It requires a qualified person with knowledge of what might be out there to walk the areas looking for signs of significant importance. The review assesses how the project may affect those resources. A known site may be in the area and they want to know that the project sponsor is aware of that and is taking appropriate measures to avoid and protect that resource. Once we provide the necessary paper work to SHPO, they have 30 working days to review state funded projects and 30 calendar days to review federally funded projects or projects on federal land.

Shein People that conduct the surveys have to meet federal requirements for education (usually at least a masters) and experience in the field.

Savino I was under the impression that these Sticker Fund projects were submitted knowing that that work was completed. We weren't supposed to be funding projects to get that work done.

Baldwin We are not funding the surveys, but they have to be done before the project can get started. ALL projects have to go through the cultural review process whether it's the state OHV fund or the RTP funds. We have had problems with projects not getting clearances ever since I started with State Parks. Projects would get funding, then find out they couldn't proceed and it could take years before they resolve the issues.

Rogers I would like to see us work with the project sponsors to get the projects completed no matter how long it takes.

Baldwin It's a matter of keeping in communication with the project sponsors. That's what our quarterly reports are for. So we know the project is progressing.

John Brown Often the decision we are proceeding under gets an appeal and that can stop things for a long time. Personnel issues are definitely a factor. Our NEPA coordinator recently died and everything came to a stop. When the new person came on board they didn't agree with any of the predecessor's decisions and had to redo the studies.

Savino Can't we assist you by visiting projects and letting you know what is going on?

Baldwin You are certainly welcome to visit project sites and report to me. I would advise against discussing or making any suggestions to the project sponsor. I don't want them to think we are trying to micro-manage their project. If you have a relationship with the project sponsor and gave them a support letter

for the project, then yes, by all means let them know what you think. They asked you to support them.

Sandee McCullum When I was on OHVAG we were reluctant to fund NEPA unless we were reasonably assured that it would lead to a completed project. Are you now just giving out money for NEPA without concern for what it will lead to?

Baldwin The Sticker Fund Project Selection Program states that money for NEPA will only be provided in conjunction with a proposed project. The NEPA needs to be confined to areas directly affected by the project.

3. Discuss Goals and Plans for Statewide OHV Ambassador Program.

Baldwin The Ambassador program was developed in 2006 by State Parks staff in cooperation with BLM, AGFD, Cave Creek RD as a pilot project to provide on-site management assistance to land managers. Three high use sites near the Phoenix area were selected. At that time State Parks housed a position (Troy Waskey) that did all the work in developing the program. In 2008 Troy left State Parks. The program was up and running and our Statewide OHV Coordinator (Amy Racki) took over the reigns. It was more that she could handle along with her other responsibilities, so we entered into an agreement with BLM State Office to fund an intern position. That position became the OHV Ambassador Coordinator and Chris Gammage was hired. He has been in that position for two years now and he works out of the BLM Phoenix District Office.

Chris Gammage presented the PowerPoint presentation that is ACTION ITEM: C3.

Page 30. An important part of the training the Ambassadors receive addresses dealing with confrontation. They are specifically trained to avoid it.

Sandee McCullum Page 43. You said UTV operators must wear a helmet?

Chris Gammage Yes, that is agency policy.

Rogers The events you attend are just in the southern part of the state.

Chris Gammage Yes, we have been operating mainly in the pilot areas around Phoenix to date. We did a Meet & Greet at Cinder Hills last summer and attempted to do one on the Lakeside RD that was cancelled.

?? Can the events extend to patrolling a specific area on the forest every other weekend or something like that?

Chris Gammage We only schedule a few organized events. We are developing “core teams” that will be able to work directly with the agency to do specific projects without direct involvement by the coordinator. That could include patrol work or projects like the fence repair.

Baldwin The Ambassador can’t just put on their jersey and go out and patrol. All presence on the land must be coordinated through the agency.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANTS

Baldwin This program is successful because it has good supervision and excellent cooperation between the agencies and the volunteers. It is working because people are putting the time and effort to make it work. So, to expand this program we need to find more of those people around the state. We are not just handing out jerseys and trailers and saying “now you’re Ambassador, go out there and meet the public”. We are looking for people who will adopt the mission and goals of the program, get the standardized Ambassador Program training, and follow the format for conducting events.

The program requires a partnership between the agency and the volunteers. The grants are an opportunity for that partnership to receive funding and support to help make the program successful for them. The grant will be worth \$25,000. The first \$10k will be used to purchase the trailer and equipment package, i.e. jerseys, radios, and other event supplies. The existing team (core unit) will provide all of the general training currently required by the agencies. This “core unit” (Chris Gammage, Marge Dwyer, agency reps on the planning team) will support the “satellite units” by sending experienced Ambassadors to assist with initial events. The remainder of the funds can be used over the three-year period of the grant to offset expenses in running the program, i.e. gas for volunteer vehicles, insurance costs, trailer storage & maintenance, miscellaneous event costs, etc.

The ideal situation is for a user organization with 501C3 tax status to enter into an agreement with the land managing agency and submit the grant application. This competitive process allows State Parks to deal directly with the users through a Participant Agreement and transfer the funds directly to them. This is the preferred situation because the equipment then belongs to the Ambassador group and they have control and access to it without federal restrictions. They would be responsible for storing and maintaining the equipment. And, under this arrangement, the 501C3 receives funds to cover the cost of liability insurance needed to conduct Ambassador events.

We will accept grant applications initiated by the land manager if they have an approved volunteer agreement in place with specifically identified group of volunteers who will be the Ambassadors.

The greatest selling point for the Ambassador Program is that it is agency tested and supported and it has outstanding results. Each satellite unit may add events or procedures that work for them, but there is nothing in the program that won't work wherever it is applied properly.

The difficult issue is that it requires a sincere commitment of time and effort by the volunteers and the agency staff, particularly on the volunteer side. We know how stretched the agency people are. The program has to benefit them greatly with minimal demand on their time. This means the "unit coordinator" must take control of the planning and coordination and only require review and approval by the "agency lead".

Nina Hubbard Is there any consideration for expanding this program to provide regular on-site presence at specific high use sites, like a site host?

Baldwin That hasn't been considered at this point. You site host could certainly be an Ambassador, but you would want them conducting Ambassador activities without coordinated support.

Savino How often do they need to go out?

Baldwin In the grant agreement there will be a certain number of events required over the period of the grant.

Chris Gammage In season we are doing an event every weekend at one of our project areas. And the events may include an expo or dealer event.

Savino Do you require the UTV operators to wear a full-face helmet?

Chris Gammage I know it's a BLM requirement and I was told it is also a Forest Service policy for volunteers.

Savino Does the \$25k include operating expenses, like pamphlets, or are those given through the State? And is the \$25k a one-time set up fee?

Baldwin That will be the money provided to operate the program for the three-year grant period. Again the \$10k for equipment would be one-time. The other \$15k can be used for expenses over the three years. Eligible costs will be identified in the grant agreement.

Group discussed helmet requirements for UTV operators. This can be element in volunteer agreement with the agency. Bottom line, Ambassadors embrace and model agency rules.

Rogers When we developed the new state OHV laws we wanted to create consistency across the state and the Forest Service had law enforcement representation in that process so we wouldn't have discussions like this.

Antle Would it help if our groups that are 501C3's would get in touch with the agencies so they know who they can work with?

Baldwin That's what we are trying to accomplish. Identify an eligible group and put them together with the land manager for a specific area that they want to take stewardship for. There has to be a benefit for the users, possibly making a better relationship with the agency and securing access and even improvements for their area.

Antle So we as OHVAG should find those clubs with 501C3 status and see if they are interested in this program.

Baldwin And we need to identify agencies that recognize that they can benefit from this program.

John So what you need to do is get the grant packet out to all of the agencies so they know what they need to do. They should know the groups they are currently working with and could start that discussion with them.

Antle Not a lot of the groups out there have 501C3 status.

Baldwin I was told by Jeff Gursh that the smaller groups can work under the OHV Coalition to purchase insurance.

Savino Some of our members who are retired law enforcement feel this program asks people to put themselves at risk if they are in a remote area and are suppose to make themselves visible when something illegal might be going on.

Biegel We don't make ourselves visible.

Bill (Ambassador) If we come across a pot farm, we take a gps and get out of there.

Baldwin A key element of the training is how to avoid confrontation.

Dan Shein I might point out that the Site Steward Program that does cultural site monitoring is trained the same was. You make notes and get out of the area. They are trained that you never want to jeopardize personal safety.

Baldwin That's another example of why the structure of this program is so important. This was put together with the help of agency law enforcement

to train volunteers properly. This is what gives this program credibility and we must maintain that credibility as we expand. Anybody who puts the Ambassador jersey has received this training and is not going to operate independently.

Bill (Ambassador) We go through scenarios during training that demonstrate how to respond in a variety of situations. We learn that it is important to remove our helmets when interacting with the public so they can see who we are.

Nina Hubbard I think the program is great, but have some concerns about recruiting locally for enough people to make it happen. Would you be willing to put on an event in our area to help recruit people?

Baldwin I'm sure a lot of the Ambassadors currently working in the Phoenix would love to get out and see what's happening in other areas. We can coordinate that with you. We intend to recruit outside of the sponsoring clubs for people that want to be Ambassadors. The Ambassador Program needs to be something a club does in addition to its normal club functions and people can participate as Ambassadors without being a club member.

Biegel Having one club as the entire Ambassador unit is not a good idea. If the club is only ATV oriented, you wouldn't have people to patrol single track or jeep trails. A variety of vehicle uses is desirable. Does it have to be a 501C3 group?

Baldwin We can only contract with eligible vendors. A club does not have the legal status we need to enter into agreements.

4. Discuss and Prioritize Sticker Fund Project Selection Program Applications.

Hank Rogers requested himself.

Biegel	5	1	4	2	3
John	5	2	3	4	1
Moore	2	1	3	4	5
Savino	4	3	2	1	5
Antle	2	3	4	5	1
	18	10	16	16	15

A-S KIDS IN THE WOODS –

John It is important that the next generation be trained in the responsible riding. This is more than just safety training. It is a broad training in environmental ethics that we hope will reach the future generations.

Moore I agree that supporting the next generation is a real priority. I was concerned with what they are purchasing. Why the 500 ATVs? Those are for more experienced riders.

Rogers The program deals with 14-18 year olds. Not small children. I selected that machine so the kids can ride two up legally and get more kids involved. Also, some of the 18-year-olds are pretty big kids. They need to learn on the equipment they will be using.

Moore I think you should be buying more smaller ATVs. I also think the cost of the trailer is too high.

Biegel I'm not sure buying equipment is appropriate.

Savino I think it's a small target area. I would like to see it reach more statewide.

Estes We would like to make this a model that can be used statewide and we need to work out the details in our local area first.

Savino What happens to the ATVs and trailer when the program is over? Three or four years down the road when the equipment is worn out, what happens to it? Where does that money go?

Estes We hope that the program doesn't end. The Forest Service can't own them. There are so many restrictions in using FS equipment that the program wouldn't be possible. Our partner, the Apache County ATV Roughriders will own the equipment and handle the liability, maintenance, and storage.

Savino Is there a process to handle the trade-in value even 7 or 8 years down the road when replacement equipment is needed?

Baldwin If they come back in three years and want more equipment, we can certainly access the condition of this equipment and deal with the issue at that time.

Moore We have purchased equipment in the past. The project sponsor is always accountable for maintaining the equipment, especially when they come back for more.

Savino I want make sure we don't end up in the situation that the Colorado OHV commission is in. They are being investigated for improper use of state funds. I want to make sure that the record shows we asked these question and discussed the ramifications of our actions.

Baldwin It appears to me that this group was not really accountable to anyone like OHVAG is to the Parks Board. They were the ones deciding how the money was spent. Also, when we look at buying equipment the question is, how much would it cost to rent the same equipment? In most cases it's more cost effective to buy the equipment. When you're done renting, you have nothing to show for it.

Savino Why is the media cost so high if you are targeting such a small area?

Estes We intend to promote this as much as possible through the schools, but in this area there is a lot of home schooling going on and we want to make sure everybody has an opportunity to participate in the program. These cost are to promote the program over the three-year period.

Antle I think the newspaper is too expensive and the money may be better spent on flyers and radio.

Moore I think it's really important that this program works through the high school.

Antle I have some questions about the purchases in the grant. How much of that is eligible?

Baldwin I will have to check with my purchasing department and discuss whether all of these items can be purchased with state funds.

Savino When we pay to build a trail, we see a finished trail. How are you (A-S) going to account for your expenditures? What will you have to show for it?

Estes We will document the number of kids that graduate from the program.

Baldwin We will develop and evaluation form and they can give us feedback about how the program is working and they will be able to make adjustments as the program progresses. They provide accomplishments from the first class through the last.

Estes We will interview kids from before and after the classes and see how much they think they will apply in the future.

Savino I think that it is important to show that we are monitoring the use of the funds in a very transparent way.

Estes We agree and we want to be able to assess the value of the program. We are doing this for a purpose and want to make sure what we're doing is accomplishing that purpose.

Baldwin What is your status with the Forest Service? Are you going to be around to see this program through it's completion?

Estes I am a life-long resident of the area. I have a home and a husband and we aren't planning to go anywhere for a while.

MOHAVE COUNTY HUALAPAI MOUNTAIN PARK OHV IMPROVEMENTS

Baldwin As you may recall they were awarded funds in Phase I to increase their staging area and add more camping spaces.

Savino I gave that a #3 and I go up there frequently. I think it is important for all of these areas to have practice/training areas for younger riders. At that location they are on top of a mountain and can't have the kids riding on the road.

Moore It is an area with 1250 square miles of riding and needs these types of facilities to support that riding.

Baldwin This will be a good example of how a county park is taking advantage of these funds to develop a revenue source. It is certainly within the rules to charge for day use entry into the park and camping fees for overnight use.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR APACHE COUNTY ATV ROUGHRIDERS NEWSLETTER

Rogers We have been publishing a newspaper for our ATV jamboree for the last five years and sponsorship is drying up. It's hard to write a newspaper about three days of riding. What we want to do is make it a biannual publication where we write in the spring about events and riding opportunities in the high country. Then in the fall we write about events and opportunities in desert. We can talk about OHVAG. Who are the members? What do they do? What is happening with the sticker money? It will be a voice for OHV without restriction from government agencies. If someone wants to write because they are unhappy about things the Forest Service or State Parks is doing, they can say what they feel. In fairness, we would allow Parks or FS to respond to those statements. We want the issues out in the open. We will promote events for everyone even if we have to do the writing. We want to use our five years of experience in doing an OHV newspaper and expand it statewide.

Biegel I like the idea. But if you're only publishing twice a year, the news is always four months old. It's fine to promote events like your jamboree. That is my concern for the project.

Moore We have been trying to market info about how OHV funds are being used. Here we have an established newspaper that can expand to do that for us. I like the idea of only two issues a year. There is a tremendous expense in putting out a newspaper every month. In six months you can come up with a lot of interesting stuff and make it a useful publication.

Savino How would you distribute it around the state?

Rogers We would distribute to user groups and dealers, Game & Fish, Forest Service.

Savino What is to keep someone else from finding out that this is grant funded and in the next cycle they want money to start a magazine. Are we creating a monster?

Rogers If someone else has a better idea, you can drop me. We would be doing this for the good of the OHV community because it is needed out there.

Biegel Where are you going to get the information about the events?

Rogers From the users and the clubs. Once they know they have free distribution, they will make a point to get us their information.

Antle We publish our own newspaper and we get no input.

Moore Make if you get the list from MVD and mail it to all of the sticker holder, then you know it's getting to the people you want to have it.

Baldwin Technically, Hank's group as a 501C3 is not eligible to apply under this process. We can only award funds through existing agreements with other governmental entities. If OHVAG wants to find someone to publish a newspaper like this, we would have to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) and spell out exactly what we expect and how much we're willing to pay for it and see who applies. Under that scenario any business or 501C3 user group could apply competitively.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA KART CLUB, INC TRAINING FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Baldwin Once again, as a 501C3 this group is not eligible to apply under this process. We have funded projects at Pima Motorsports Park through Pima County and this group must lease this land from Pima County. So if they can get Pima County to take the lead, we can work with them. The bigger question is, what connection to PMP and OHV recreation does this group have? We have determined in the past that go karts are not OHVs. In this process we can discuss the applications and gather questions and go back to the project sponsors with our concerns and see what they can do to alleviate them and make a better project. The project can be tabled until the next meeting, then if they can make the suggested changes, it can be considered for funding at that time.

I don't want you guys to get the impression that we need to get the money out the door to keep it from being swept. Yes, we need to see that the money get on the ground, but with good projects.

We can't just table this and come back to it later. We need to list our concerns so the project sponsor can make the project more desirable. Then, you can either approve it or deny it based on program guidelines.

Antle Can we get back to you in a couple of week with some questions?

Baldwin Sure, and I'd like for either you or Pete to go down there and talk to the people and see what they are all about. Then with the project clearly identified, an eligible sponsor, and your report, we can respond appropriately.

RED ROCK RD OHV IMPROVEMENTS

Biegel The objectionable item is road closures.

Savino A guy is going to be upset when he is paying a \$25 fee and it is being used to close roads.

Baldwin These funds are to be used to mitigate OHV issues. Mitigating issues includes fortifying a closed road that was closed before they submitted this application.

Antle If you look at this closer, it's a large area and they have a lot of supporters who are using the area.

Baldwin This grant is doing a lot more good things than closing a road that was already closed anyway. We need to look beyond the word "closed" and see what they are trying to accomplish with the whole area.

John It's only \$10k for road closures.

Antle The note I made was “what kind of closures”?

Moore It says “the closure would prevent people from driving up and down the banks of Oak Creek. The public can park at the barrier and easily walk to the creek.” Well, I’m the public and I take issue with those statements. I want to drive my car. This has happened in other areas like the Blue Point bridge on the Salt River. They just abortionized that location. There are a lot of good areas on both sides of I-17 there at Stoneman Lake Road. We should be able to go through and redline some things.

GAP IN RECORDING, NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT WAS MISSED

Baldwin All they are asking for is the equipment to see that the closed roads don’t get used. And what is the amount, \$10k?

Antle It’s not a lot and when you have that many supporters including different types of supporters.

Baldwin This group needs to support all aspects of OHV recreation. We need to look at these components as they support continued use. Mitigation is part of the legislation. So is law enforcement. It’s not all about building new stuff.

John Before we had a goal to get the projects on the ground and use the funds in a positive way. I don’t think we’re saying now that we don’t see that. The projects that we’re seeing now we’re being forced to accept negative stuff.

Baldwin You don’t see enough positive stuff in this project?

Moore Yeah, there’s lots of stuff in that area around Stoneman Lake.

Baldwin If we are talking about being a good partner, then there’s give and take. They want to do improvements and they want us to help them enforce their closure.

5. Consider Funding the High Priority Sticker Fund Project Selection Program Applications.

Savino Moved to table the Southern AZ Kart Club project until we get more information and questions answered.

Moore Second.

Antle Unanimous.

Savino Moved to recommend funding for the Economic Development for Apache County project.

John Second.

Biegel I think we will run into problems with other groups wanting to do newspapers.

Antle Isn't that something that State Parks could do? Isn't there a way under OHVAG that you could publish something like what Hank wants to do?

Biegel If State Parks would like to back the OHV newspaper you (AZ Four-wheel Drive Association) put out, we (OHVAG) would have no problem with that. If you could get Game & Fish to partner, too, that would be even better.

Antle In favor: Savino & John opposed: Biegel, Moore & Antle

Biegel I would suggest we send this back to Hank and see if he wants to propose it directly to State Parks and see if they want to do it.

Baldwin What you really need to do is make a recommendation to the Parks Board that they set aside an amount to put out an RFP for this type of publication.

Rogers I'd like to say something now that this is over. Don't you want a voice for the OHV community without government influence? That's not what you will get if you go through the State Parks Board or forest service.

Antle What about going through the coalition?

Rogers Let them do it.

Antle What about a partnership with them?

Rogers I have never had any contact them. I just know that it needs to happen. When the users see that this money is actually benefiting them, sticker sales should increase drastically.

Baldwin We can accomplish this in two ways. You can ask the Parks Board to set aside the money and do an RFP through our contracts department. We would need to determine exactly what you want: how many issues, how many copies of each issue, what happens to advertising income, what types of

material do you want to see, etc. OR, we can ask the Parks Board to set aside a specific amount of money for a competitive grant process. We would still need to identify all of the requirements for the paper and we could allow 501C3 groups to apply, or even the New Times. These would not necessarily have government oversight, but you still have to justify using state funds when certain political messages are being conveyed.

Biegel My concern is still that once we authorize this type of project, we will be inundated with similar requests.

Savino On your point Drew, we could call this a “pilot project”, but what kind of scrutiny would we get when OHVAG approved it and the money is going to an OHVAG member?

Don French There is already a monthly “OHV Newsletter” being published. I believe it’s put out by Kinney.

Baldwin So let’s investigate this avenue and submit material to them. We’ve talked about getting space in the Game & Fish publications. We need to research existing newspapers and see how we can get our message out through them. We can submit stuff to the New Times and Republic. It may not be as in depth as you want, but we are not doing those things at this time.

Rogers My suggestion is to get somebody out there and do a legitimate paper. Yes, I understand your concern about conflict. Our club is willing to give you what we know about doing the newspaper. You won’t find anybody out there willing to do a newspaper for \$70k. We need to get our good works out there. We are facing resistance for the environmental and conservation groups and if we can get the good news out there, it will do nothing but help us. The Republic and Game & Fish publications don’t reach our target audience. We need to get the word out to our people and we need to have the ability to say what we want to say in it, what needs to be said.

Antle We’ve talked about this for several years and there are groups out there that can do this. We need to work together with them to make this happen.

Baldwin I need to do some research with our legal/procurement department and see what options might be available to identify this as a “pilot project”. I think we need to find something that is already in existence and use that.

Antle We should use an umbrella organization to reach more people.

Biegel I would like to make a motion to table Hank's project at this time and we don't decide to not fund it and give Hank some time to do some research see if he can work with the Coalition and act as editor.

Antle We've already passed a motion regarding the application and we don't want to go back on that. We all need to do some research and see what's out there and come back with information to discuss at the next meeting.

Baldwin Remember that just because we didn't approve it for funding this time, doesn't make it go away. It is still eligible for consideration. I still need to find out what is involved with approving this.

Rogers This is our money and we should be able to put our voice out there.

Savino I move to approve funding for the Mohave County Parks Department project for development of a training area and restroom at the Hualapai Mountain Park OHV staging area.

Biegel Second.

Antle All in favor – unanimous.

Savino I move to approve funding for the Apache-Sitgreaves NF "Kids in the Woods" project.

John Second.

Antle Discussion. Are we going to ask for some changes in that project as far as the newspaper advertising and awards?

Baldwin You can specify that that those item be limited to the requested amounts and then when I present it to the Parks Board, if those amounts are reduces or deleted it would not contradict your recommendation.

Savino I would like to restate my motion to approve funding for the Apache-Sitgreaves NF "Kids in the Woods" program with consideration evaluation of eligible scope items.

John Second.

Antle All in favor, Savino, Rogers, Moore, Biegel Opposed
John

Savino I moved to approve funding for the Red Rock RD project.

Biegel Second.

Antle All in favor – unanimous.

6. Review and Discuss New Member Application for the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) and Consider Recommending a New Member to the State Parks Board.

JOHN I'm ready to make the motion!

Savino I move that Donald French be recommended to fill the OHV organization vacancy on the OHVAG and that he begin serving upon approval by the State Parks Board and continue through December 31, 2012, and that this recommendation be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final action.

Rogers Second.

Savino I think it is an advantage for the group that he represents the western part of the state.

Ra All in favor – unanimous.

7. Discussion on OHVAG Goals and Projects.

Antle This has been covered.

D. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report -

2. Sub-Committee Reports

Rogers The OHVAG logo would cost \$1500 to develop. Jackets are \$45, hats \$20, t-shirts \$18, polo shirt \$30.

Savino Please include business cards.

Biegel I move we ask the Parks Board to set aside funding to promote OHVAG.

John I don't think you can make a motion since it wasn't an action item on the agenda. You can direct staff to investigate the possibility of getting funds for this stuff.

3. Staff Reports

Baldwin The Board approved the projects you recommended at the last meeting and the funding to expand the Ambassador Program. They also approved use of all OHV Recreation Funds accruing in 2011. In addition to the \$145k estimated accumulation through June, I have learned that that figure is closer to \$325k. I also provided a copy of the letter sent to Representative Weiers regarding the Parks Board action to fund OHV projects.

Baldwin Item D.3.c is an overview of the plans for expansion of the OHV Ambassador Program. Because we are moving this out of the pilot stage and making it available statewide, we need to broaden the base of support to include any land managers who might be involved. We are developing a structure for the program with an over-arching governing council to give all of the sponsoring agencies input into the operation and direction of the program. OHVAG will have a position on the council and you will still have recommending authority over use of the OHV Recreation Fund and the expansion grants. You will need to be knowledgeable about the program, what it takes to be an Ambassador, how the program operates, what they do, etc. so that you can answer questions about the program and promote it.

Antle I have heard that the 50" RZR that we approved for the BLM grant is being changed to a different vehicle. The purpose of getting the 50" vehicle was to use it on the ATV trails. I want to bring that to your attention.

Baldwin When I write the work order to identify the approved project costs I will specify the 50" RZR vehicle. If they want to amend that, I will bring their proposal back to you.

John If they get a larger vehicle, it will restrict the trails that they can access and the purpose was to patrol where 4-wheel drive vehicles did not have access.

Antle I have a question on the budget about the \$692,100 item. I thought the approval for that was up in 2010. Did they reauthorize that in the last session?

Baldwin This was all appropriated by the Legislature in the 2011 State Parks budget. This is the tenth year this money has been diverted by the Legislature for State Parks use. That \$7m that has been taken from OHV projects and programs.

Antle Is there any possibility we will be reimbursed for our travel costs?

Baldwin Every time I bring this up they emphasize that Parks Board members are not being reimbursed for any their expenses. None of the advisory committees are.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Rogers Can we have Kevin Bergersen from Game & Fish give us an update on the new OHV officers and what happened to Joe Sacco?

Bergersen I am the manager of the OHV and Boating law enforcement divisions. I was Joe's immediate supervisor. Joe received a promotion to a field supervisor position in the north Tucson sector. He had expressed a desire to move back to Tucson, so this fit well into his plans. He had reservations in leaving the OHV program, but wanted to take advantage of this opportunity. We have a candidate for Joe's position and we are making the final background checks for that person. I have always been a proponent of cooperative management and support partnerships that help us get our job done better. This will be my charge to the new Joe that he go out there and establish and nurture partnerships.

We now have four of the seven mandated OHV officers hired. Two are finishing their training and I will have them at Hank's jamboree to meet people and get their faces out there. They are assigned to the east and west Maricopa County areas. The other two should be out by late, late fall. They will be assigned to central AZ working out of Mayer and the Tucson area. As sticker portion of the fund revenues continue to accrue, we fully intend to fill the other three positions.

We are planning to use the gas tax portion of the fund to match with our other water craft and game & fish sportsman money to create a dual purpose officer who will focus on hunting and boating issues during that season and then OHV issues when they are predominant. This will give us the seven mandated full time officer and seven more that can be used in busy OHV times. You may see some of these blended officers in the field before we completely add the OHV only officers. This is only because of the funding sources. We need to wait until the sticker fund revenues catch up before we can invest in the training and equipment for the new officers. We don't want anyone to think we do not intend to hire the full time officers or are diverting any of the sticker money to these blended officers. This will allow us to have one of each of these officers in each region of the state.

We have a new deputy direct, Leonard Ordway, who came out of the Mesa Region office. It is his intention to get all of these officers on the ground and looks for great things in this program. We have taken the game management degree requirement out of these blended positions and are calling them law enforcement specialists.

F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

No discussion.

G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS –

Baldwin Our next meeting will be held in Tucson on Friday, November 12th. Location will be announced. We will make the same presentation on the Ambassador Program and the expansion grants for the Coronado NF staff. And we will ask our Tucson hosts, Becky and Pete, to arrange a ride for us on Saturday.

H. ADJOURNMENT 5:03 pm